Cloth purchased for use in Government hospitals.

* 441 *Q.*—SRI G. SATYANARAYANA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state what was the quantity of were purchased for use in the Medical department during 1951–52, what fraction of it was mill cloth and what was its cost; and whether foreign cloth was imported and if so, how much?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" 1,667,722 yards of cloth were purchased for use in the Medical Department during 1951–52. No mill or foreign cloth was purchased in that year."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" May I know, Sir, what is the difficulty of the Government in purchasing handloom cloth for use in hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Khadi cloth is purchased for use in hospitals."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—" ఈ ఖద్దరు గుడ్డ ఎంత కొన్నారు ? Handloom ఎంత కొన్నారు ? విదేశీగుడ్డ ఎంత కొన్నారు ? Binny గుడ్డ ఎంత కొన్నారు ? వివరంగా చెబుతారా ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put."

Production of rice and millets in Madras State.

* 442 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many tons of rice and millets are produced this year in this State; and

(*b*) how many tons of rice and millets are expected through the Centre from other States and from abroad?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The estimated production of rice and millets in the Madras State in 1952–53 is as follows :—

	TONS.
Rice	4,033,000
Millets (cleaned grain)	2,223,900

" (*b*) *Rice.*—The Government of India have promised to supply about 2·5 lakhs tons of rice to this State under the basic plan for the current year. Out of this quota, they have indicated that about ¾ will be supplied from the surplus States in India and the remaining ¼ from overseas sources.

As regards millets, the Government of India have been requested to supply 5 lakhs tons of millets for 1953 including 1 lakh tons of overseas milo. They have promised that they will endeavour to meet our requirements within the over-all availabilities."

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SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" In spite of the existing food position in the State, prices of paddy and rice have risen abnormally in the recent past. What is the action the Government have taken to check this? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think that prices of paddy and rice have risen abnormally in the recent past. There was a tendency for prices to rise in the hon. Member's district and he knows the steps we have taken to put down the rice. Prices have come down to a considerable extent now."

SRI C. KANDASWAMI :—" May I know whether production has increased over last year's; and if so, by how much? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" In 1951–52, the estimated production was 4,174,000 tons. So, there has been a decrease."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Has Madras State attained self-sufficiency in millets? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" ' Madras State ' is a very indefinite term in view of the impending partition."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" My district is one where the prices of rice have risen abnormally. What are the steps proposed to be taken to bring them down? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I know his district of Malabar. The present position is that seven ounces of rice continue to be supplied to the people and there can be no room for complaint."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" In view of the rise in the price of rice in Tanjore district, will the Government consider the question of opening fair-price shops at every place and in each village where there were originally ration shops during the time of rationing? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have instructed the Collector to open fair-price shops wherever necessary."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" The Hon. the Minister was pleased to state that ' Madras State ' was an indefinite term when he replied to one of the questions on food. May I know whether he has any partiality for any particular part of the State in matters pertaining to food? "

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. the Minister said that prices of paddy and rice have come down considerably. Will he tell us what was the price previously, by how much it went up and by how much it has come down? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Rice was selling in Tanjore at Rs. 1–4–0 per Madras measure. It has been brought down to one rupee."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Is the Minister aware that the price of rice per bag is Rs. 28 in Tanjore? It has risen, from Rs. 18 a rice bag, by about 60 per cent? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" My friend has returned just now from a tour of the North and is not aware of the existing conditions here. The price has come down considerably."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Will the Minister tell us what is the price per bag of paddy in Tanjore district and also in which particular market it is sold so? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If he wants the market rates in detail, I can supply the same to him."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Will the Government consider the question of reducing the price of fair-price shop rice? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have recently reduced the pool price of rice at which it is sold in the various fair-price shops."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Is the Hon. the Minister aware that I am directly coming from Tanjore and that the price of paddy yesterday was Re. 1–3–0 in Tanjore town? Will the Government take necessary steps to bring down the price? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Some flourishing lawyer might have purchased at that rate special quality rice."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Are the Government prepared to reduce the retail sale price of rice sold at the fair-price shops? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have reduced it recently."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Am I to take it that the Minister does not know the prevailing prices of rice in the various parts of the State; and if so, how does he say that prices have come down? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" When I say prices have come down, it does not mean that I must give figures in respect of each taluk and each town."

SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU :—" Will the Government appoint an expert committee to enquire into and check the fall in production in spite of the Government spending lots of money on Grow More Food and other schemes? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is quite evident that the fall in production is due to drought conditions. Now we are having normal rains and production will go up."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOUD :—" In view of the prices going up, will the Government consider the question of starting fair-price shops in every district? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Fair-price shops are being run in all districts."